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Statistical capacity-building

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report which was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session,** provides an overview of the work undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity. In particular, it describes the division of the overall programme into three subject domains supplemented by capacity-building related to Millennium Development Goals indicators.

Further, the report gives details on the implementation of the programme per domain in terms of activities executed under the regular programme for technical cooperation or through donor funding. It also describes progress in the coordination of statistical capacity-building among regional and international agencies. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.
** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I.A.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Strategy of statistical capacity-building	3
III.	Implementation of programmes in 2006-2008 and future programme plans	5
	A. National statistical systems	6
	B. Population censuses and social statistics	7
	C. National accounts, economic statistics, environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting frameworks	8
	D. Millennium Development Goals indicators	8
IV.	Coordination of statistical capacity-building	9
V.	Conclusion	9

I. Introduction

1. On 24 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2006/6 in which the Council explicitly called on Member States to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies; and the implementation of commitments and the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels. In the same resolution, the Council called upon the United Nations system, including the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions and international agencies, to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, in particular of developing countries.

2. A first progress report on the Statistics Division's programme of strengthening national statistical capacity (E/CN.3/2007/14) was submitted for discussion to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session in 2007. It provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Division in 2006, with special attention focussed on work related to the Millennium Development Goals indicators. The Commission agreed with the report's recommendations on future steps and stressed that capacity-building activities of international agencies at the country level should be demand-driven rather than supply-driven, and that any assistance provided to countries should have a long-term perspective on building their capacity to produce necessary data in a sustainable way rather than an ad hoc approach limited to finding short-term solutions.[1]

3. The present report describes the strategy and implementation of capacity-building activities of the Statistics Division, and the coordination of such activities among the international agencies. In particular, it describes the division of the Statistics Division's programme into three subject domains supplemented by capacity-building related to Millennium Development Goals indicators; reviews its capacity-building activities for the period 2006-2008; and outlines progress made in coordination within this area through the meetings of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

II. Strategy of statistical capacity-building

4. To meet the overall objective, the capacity-building programme provides advisory services, implements workshops, organizes study tours, and makes available statistical toolkits in three subject domains supplemented by activities related to the Millennium Development Goals indicators. These domains are (a) national statistical systems, (b) population censuses and social statistics and (c) national accounts, basic economic statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting frameworks.

5. The first domain covers activities directly related to the organization of national statistical systems, such as the building of better institutional arrangements, improved legal frameworks, better organizational structure and management of

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 4* (E/2007/24), chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/111, paras. (a) and (d).

human resources and a more effective data compilation and dissemination programme.

6. The main task within the domain of population censuses and social statistics currently and for subsequent years is to assist member States in the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses to be undertaken during 2005-2014. The Division will provide advisory services to countries, subregions and regions; assist countries in developing project documents; and develop and update training materials in the area of population and housing censuses. During the biennium 2010-2011, it aims to provide technical assistance, particularly to those developing countries expected to conduct a population census.

7. Another focus area is the development of gender statistics through the building of capacities in developing countries directed towards the incorporation of a gender perspective in national statistical data-collection systems in general, and in the measurement of informal sector and violence against women in particular. The programme further highlights the need for these statistics in response to requirements for monitoring progress towards the attainment of gender equity goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Within the domain of national accounts, basic economic statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting frameworks the priorities are (a) implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA), (b) implementation of the revised recommendations in areas of basic economic statistics, such as industry statistics, international trade statistics, distributive trade statistics, and tourism statistics and (c) implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

9. In response to the request of the Statistical Commission to implement the 2008 SNA, the Division, in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, organized in Luxembourg in May 2008, a conference on international outreach and coordination in national accounts for sustainable development and growth. The conference resulted in the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts, which have an objective to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and basic economic statistics in developing countries, while ensuring that national, regional and international actions are sustainable and efficient; and to improve the quality, production and dissemination of national accounts and related basic statistics at the country level in a sustainable manner.

10. The Statistics Division will increase its efforts to assist developing countries through capacity development training in the areas of national accounts, industrial statistics, distributive trade statistics, international trade statistics, international economic classifications, tourism statistics, energy statistics, environment statistics, and environmental-economic accounting. Knowledge transfer will be supported by the production of guidelines in hard copy and electronic format, and by further developing web-based knowledge resources for economic statistics.

11. The Statistics Division through its regular programme and the donor-funded projects will continue to assist developing countries with capacity development training in the areas of Millennium Development Goals indicators, and monitoring of Millennium Development Goals. As outlined in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, the objective of these capacity-building efforts is to improve the

coverage and transparency of, and reporting on, all indicators in order to enhance the database on all Millennium Development Goals (see also E/CN.3/2009/16).

12. To ensure effective delivery of the enlarged capacity-building programme, the Statistics Division established, in 2008, a section in the Director's office dedicated to capacity development. This section communicates with donors on the one hand and facilitates communication among countries, the Division's substantive officers and regional or international partners on the other to achieve the objective of delivering technical assistance that is country-driven and sustainable. The section coordinates the organizational and administrative components of all activities run by the Division.

13. The Statistics Division also continues to forge strategic partnerships at different levels, and it draws on the strengths and capacities of and synergies with the regional commissions, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Tourism Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and other subregional, regional and international institutions.

14. The approach for delivering technical assistance is essentially the same for each programme. Assistance is delivered through (a) advisory services involving skilled in-house and outsourced technical experts who address specific needs of a more technical nature; (b) national, regional and interregional training workshops designed to promote more effective transfer of knowledge; and (c) strengthening linkages between developing countries through exchange of best practices via study visits and fellowships.

15. In an effort to build on the existing training work conducted by national statistical training centres, the Statistics Division is launching an initiative to establish a global network among those training centres and to assist in the development of subregional leading centres. As a first step into that direction, the Division has conducted an ad hoc inquiry among national statistical offices around the world to obtain information on their current national training programmes and determine their ability to provide national training for nationals from other countries in their subregion. Ninety-six countries responded to the inquiry, indicating that there is both existing capacity and considerable interest in this kind of networking. The Division will analyse the results in more detail and will keep the Commission informed on the status of this initiative.

III. Implementation of programmes in 2006-2008 and future programme plans

16. In the period 2006-2008, the Statistics Division organized 100 workshops, seminars and conferences through which about 5,800 national experts from 176 different countries or areas received training. In addition, many fellowships and study tours were organized, giving 510 national experts additional opportunities to gain knowledge and experience. Furthermore, about 145 advisory services were provided to countries by the Division's experts (interregional advisers and regular staff), resource persons from partner organizations and consultants, including specific country missions in the areas of statistical data processing, environmental-

economic accounting and population and housing censuses planning and management. Highlights of the main programmes are provided below.

17. The Statistics Division has an extensive evaluation system, through which feedback is collected in the short term (upon conclusion of the event) and in the longer term (four months after the event). The feedback received by the Division over the last three years has been consistently positive. A large majority of workshop participants stated that they had acquired substantive knowledge on how to produce data (85 per cent), analyse data (70 per cent) and disseminate data (75 per cent). In follow-up surveys to measure longer-term impact, more than 80 per cent of participants stated that they used the workshop materials in their daily work. Encouragingly, more than 60 per cent further stated that they had been able to implement the workshops' recommendations or had trained other staff in their offices. The training activities' multiplier effect, in particular, is important for achieving the objective of sustaining statistical capacity. In evaluations carried out after advisory missions, countries indicated that the missions had been excellent or good, and that they had provided their offices with new statistical knowledge. In the follow-up survey, it was found that, in most countries, recommendations made by the advisers had been implemented. Some highlights of implementation for the various domains are presented below.

A. National statistical systems

18. In 2006-2008, the Statistics Division held workshops, provided advisory services and supported fellowships to enhance national statistical systems. In the context of the 2010 round of population censuses, the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals indicators and the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, serious resource demands for the coming years will require optimal management of the national statistical system. In this light, the Division's capacity development workshops and advisory services will be geared towards the improvement of the organizational structure of the national statistical system, improved management of human resources and an effective system of data dissemination. In July 2006, with the help of statistical offices around the world, the Division launched the Development of National Statistical Systems website, to serve as the knowledge centre on official statistics. The development of this website reflects the Division's commitment to facilitating the sharing of experiences and best practices in the management and development of national statistical systems.

19. The development account project for the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was about 60 per cent implemented at the end of 2008. Activities undertaken included workshops on organization of the national statistical system, energy statistics, gender and employment, Millennium Development Goals-related statistics, and vital statistics and civil registration. Three more training workshops have been scheduled for 2009. Moreover, another important project goal is strengthening of the information technology network among the SADC countries, which is being achieved by modernizing and updating the website of the SADC secretariat so that it may better serve as a community tool for dissemination of information, and by upgrading some of the statistical software at the national statistical offices.

20. The development account project for the countries of South Asia started with a workshop on the organization of national statistical systems and user-producer relations in July 2008. The project objective is to strengthen the capacity of the countries and relevant regional institutions to carry out the production and analysis, on a regular basis, of benchmark statistics required for national development planning and for the monitoring of Millennium Development Goals. Workshops on national accounts and the use of information technology are being organized in the first half of 2009. The other two development account projects, on the African statistical knowledge networks and the low-income countries of South-East Asia, include proposals for activities in 2009, approval for which is being sought from the respective steering committees.

B. Population censuses and social statistics

21. This programme had been established in 2005 to support the 2010 round of population censuses and will continue at least through 2010. The focus of the programme shifts slightly from year to year. In 2006, the programme's focus was on finalizing the second revision of *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.[2] In line with the programme's objectives, the participation of developing countries in this revision work was actively encouraged, with a view to ensuring that the revisions would include a wide array of perspectives from both developed and developing countries. The Statistical Commission adopted the revised set of principles and recommendations at its thirty-eighth session in 2007,[3] and invited all national statistical authorities to ensure their full implementation. The Division then initiated a process for developing an Africa addendum to the current set which would address issues of harmonization and topics relevant to the region. This initiative was endorsed by the second Africa Symposium on Statistical Development held in Kigali in 2007.

22. A long-term attempt to continually monitor successive stages of the census process so as to ensure that guidelines and best practices are developed or updated in a rational manner has led to the development of an online 2010 World Census Programme Resource Centre whose purpose is to provide direct technical and methodological assistance to census-takers. Its main functions are to provide information and news on census-taking worldwide and to serve as a knowledge base and user-friendly repository of technical and methodological documentation.

23. The theme in 2007 had been census cartography and the use of new technologies such as geographical information systems (GIS) and the Global Positioning System (GPS). These new techniques are crucial for efficient preparation of census maps and for dissemination and analysis of census data, especially in case of emergencies and in the context of meeting disaster management requirements. In 2008, the main focus was on census data processing (data capture and data editing), especially the optical technologies for data capture. In the period 2007-2008, 11 regional training workshops were conducted in line with the stated objectives, covering topics such as international standards for census-taking,

[2] *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 4* (E/2007/24), chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/102, para. (a).

enhancing census quality, census capture and census editing, and training in use of contemporary technologies for census geography. About 450 participants from more than 100 countries were trained.

24. The Division co-organized the Global Forum on Gender Statistics in Rome in December 2007. The Forum was the first of what will be a series of international meetings on gender statistics to be held annually with the purpose of promoting the advancement of quality gender statistics among decision makers and other stakeholders. Its key objectives were to re-establish the platform for global collaboration among all partners in the work on the development of gender statistics, review technical and methodological developments in that regard and officially launch the Global Gender Statistics Programme (GGSP).

C. National accounts, economic statistics, environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting frameworks

25. It is expected that, pursuant to the preparation of the Luxembourg Recommendations, more capacity-building activities focused on the implementation of the 2008 SNA will be organized in 2009. On the other hand, many workshops, advisory services and fellowships have also been organized in the period 2006-2008 to transfer knowledge and improve compliance with international standards in various areas of basic economic statistics, in particular international economic classifications, industry and manufacturing statistics, international trade statistics, and distributive trade statistics. Similarly, capacity-building activities were organized in the areas of environment statistics and energy statistics. All those activities were funded through the Statistics Division's regular programme of technical cooperation and through the development account projects.

26. For the purpose of implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, an interregional adviser conducted nine country missions in the period 2007-2008, entailing the provision of advice, especially on water accounting. In general, the tasks of the adviser are to provide advisory services to countries, subregions and regions; to assist countries in developing project documents; and to develop and update training materials of environmental-economic accounting. Services of an interregional adviser in this area are expected to be available through 2011.

D. Millennium Development Goals indicators

27. In its attempt to promote the collation, availability and dissemination of data for the purpose of monitoring Millennium Development Goals indicators at both the country and international levels, the Statistics Division has become the executing agency of a multi-year donor-funded programme. The pilot phase started in 2008 with the collation and assessment of national Millennium Development Goals indicators in five pilot countries, namely, Bolivia, Cambodia, Liberia, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania. The project will produce a prototype Millennium Development Goals data portal presenting national and international Millennium Development Goals data with background information so as to allow users to understand the quality of and eventual discrepancies between them. These data will be supplemented with data and experiences from other countries obtained through

regional workshops and country missions. On the basis of these pilot activities the final output will be a proposal for the overall design and implementation of the system, which should commence in the second half of 2009.

IV. Coordination of statistical capacity-building

28. The Statistics Division, as mandated by the Statistical Commission, assists in donor coordination of statistical-capacity activities, which, at the country level, should be demand-driven rather than supply-driven and should have a long-term perspective on building capacity in a sustainable way. Work to that end has been initiated within the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

29. The Committee formed four task teams to review issues of coordination and provide recommendations for further work on (a) reporting mechanisms for statistical capacity-building activities; (b) capacity-building through regional training initiatives for national statisticians (and regional training centres); (c) review of modalities for coordination of technical cooperation programmes at the subregional level; and (d) assessment of the effectiveness of capacity-building activities in Africa. At the twelfth session of the Committee, held in Tunis in September 2008, the work of all the task teams was reviewed; the Statistics Division presented a report that included an inventory of regional training centres (for more detailed information, see E/CN.3/2009/21).

V. Conclusion

30. The Statistics Division has successfully and significantly stepped up its statistical capacity-building programme over the last three years in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 and the recommendations of the Statistical Commission with respect to strengthening statistical capacity. The Division will continue to improve and expand its programme and will report to the Commission at the end of the biennium 2008-2009. The Commission may wish to take note of the present report.

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Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2008/238, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21) on statistical capacity-building. The report, which is presented to the Commission for information, outlines the efforts of the Partnership to promote the use of better statistics as a central part of the enabling environment for development progress, particularly through support to countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics, through advocacy and by encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

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Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building

I. Introduction

1. The overall goal of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) is to develop a culture of evidence-based policymaking and implementation that serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. PARIS21 focuses its efforts on assisting developing countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics in order to have, inter alia, nationally owned and produced data for all Millennium Development Goal indicators and all development policy needs by 2010.

2. A national strategy for the development of statistics provides a country with a strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system. The strategy will provide a vision for where the system should be in 5 to 10 years and will set milestones for getting there.[1]

II. Progress of PARIS21 in 2008

3. PARIS21 supports national strategy processes primarily through the following types of activities: (a) regional programmes; (b) advocacy and the development of statistical advocacy tools; (c) promotion of donor collaboration; (d) development of a methodology for national strategies; and (e) satellite programmes. Progress made in 2008 under these activities is described below.

A. Regional programmes

4. PARIS21 regional programmes are focusing increasingly on country-based activities and include various components, such as the promotion of partnership, the mobilization of technical and financial resources and on-demand advisory services to countries. Among its achievements in 2008, PARIS21 directly assisted 12 countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Guinea, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania) in national strategy processes or in preparing interventions at donor round tables. In addition, PARIS21 organized regional seminars on national strategies for Caribbean countries (held in June 2008 in Belize) and Maghreb countries (held in December 2008 in Tunisia). PARIS21 has also provided support to partner regional events, including the Southern African Development Community Statistics Committee (in September 2008 in Gaborone) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization seminar on education statistics (in October 2008 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire).

[1] For a more detailed discussion of national strategies for the development of statistics, see E/CN.3/2005/18.

B. Advocacy and the development of statistical advocacy tools

5. In 2008, PARIS21 assisted 10 countries in their advocacy efforts (Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania). PARIS21 has also started production of an advocacy video on women and statistics.

C. Promotion of donor collaboration

6. PARIS21 convenes an inter-agency task team whose function is to report on donor support for statistical capacity-building in all International Development Association borrower countries and lower middle-income countries. The team, known as the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS), conducted its 2008 round covering the period 2006-2008 and published the results in a three-volume set. Among the key financing results that emerged from the exercise, the figures reveal that: (a) worldwide financial disbursements for statistical development amounted to roughly $550 million in the three-year period; (b) sub-Saharan Africa received well over half of total statistical support, with all other geographical regions (Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa) receiving around $50 million each; (c) three partners (the European Commission, the World Bank and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) provided nearly three quarters of total support; (d) for most of the recipient countries, disbursements represented less than 0.1 per cent of gross domestic product; and (e) nearly 20 per cent of total disbursements were not allocated to specific countries, but rather to multi-country, regional and global statistical activities. Detailed results from the 2008 PRESS round will be presented at the meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to be held in February 2009 in New York.

7. To support donor collaboration and mobilize resources for statistics, PARIS21 also co-organized a statistical side event at the High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in September 2008, which launched the new Statistics for Results Facility. The objective of the Facility is to accelerate the strengthening of statistical systems in participating countries. The Facility aims to build capacity to manage activities to achieve development results by aligning national development plans and poverty reduction strategies more closely with statistical efforts and facilitating the implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics.

D. Development of a methodology for national strategies for the development of statistics

8. In close collaboration with its partners, PARIS21 produces methodological guidance for countries interested in pursuing strategic planning for statistics.[2] Among the papers produced in 2008 are studies exploring the following: (a) the relationship between statistics and monitoring and evaluation; (b) good practices for a national strategy document; (c) financing and costing implementation of a national strategy; (d) integrating data archiving processes into national strategies; and

[2] Documents are available from http://www.paris21.org.

(e) lessons from recent large-scale evaluations of statistical capacity-building initiatives.

E. Satellite programmes

9. The PARIS21 secretariat oversees the implementation of two satellite programmes: the International Household Survey Network and the Accelerated Data Program. Both programmes have been very active in 2008. Both programmes benefit from the valuable contribution of many partners, including the World Bank, which plays a key role in terms of funding and coordination.

10. The International Household Survey Network has two primary objectives: (a) to promote improved use of survey microdata; and (b) to improve the quality of future surveys. In 2008, the Network further developed its microdata management tools (the microdata management toolkit, the national data archive application, microdata anonymization tools and documentation and dissemination guidelines). The Network has also developed its question bank and maintained its survey catalogue. It has its own management board.

11. To strengthen country capacity in producing statistical data relevant for policy design, monitoring and evaluation, the Accelerated Data Program undertakes three main tasks: (a) documentation, preservation and dissemination of existing survey microdata; (b) analysis of existing survey data and assessment of past survey programmes; and (c) development of improved survey programme and data collection. A combination of these tasks is being carried out in about 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Demand for the first and second tasks, in particular, is still growing.

12. The metagora project, also hosted within the PARIS21 secretariat, focused on methods, tools and frameworks for measuring human rights and democratic governance. In 2008, metagora concluded its activities, and its results were handed over to the Oslo Governance Centre of the United Nations Development Programme.

III. Future directions of the work of PARIS21

13. In 2009, PARIS21 will help to organize the Fourth Forum on Statistical Capacity-building for Arab Countries, in Cairo, and will provide support to the Fourth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, in Luanda. In the Caribbean, PARIS21 will embark on a new programme to launch the process for national strategies for the development of statistics through, as a first step, regional activities, with specific support to be provided to Belize and Suriname. A programme of support tailored to the needs of small countries and island States will also be defined with national and regional partners, and a reflection group on how to address the issues specific to fragile States will be launched. Throughout 2009, additional studies on strategic planning in statistics will be commissioned. PARIS21 will conduct the 2009 round of PRESS and will organize a meeting of the PARIS21 consortium in Dakar from 16 to 18 November 2009. The consortium will be a unique opportunity for all of the various types of partners involved in development statistics to discuss the state of statistical development and the way forward for statistical cooperation. The consortium date is scheduled to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of the creation of PARIS21.

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Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange, which is presented to the Commission for information. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I.A.

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Report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of socio-economic data and metadata: the SDMX initiative*

I. Introduction

1. In 2001, the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations joined together to develop more efficient processes for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata within the current scope of their collective activities. The World Bank joined the initial group of sponsor organizations in 2003.

2. The goal of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative is to foster standards and guidelines that allow national and international organizations to gain efficiencies and avoid duplication of work in the area of data and metadata exchange through the use of modern technology. The above-mentioned sponsor organizations have been making progress over the past few years, especially through the increasing involvement of international and national statistical agencies. SDMX builds on existing and emerging technical exchange protocols and on the content-oriented efforts of statisticians who have worked on those long-standing issues in various domains and forums. More details can be found on the SDMX website (www.sdmx.org).

3. The Statistical Commission has received reports on the initiative since its thirty-third session in 2002. At its thirty-ninth session, in 2008, the Commission recognized with appreciation the leadership of the sponsors in heading the initiative for more efficient data communication at the national and international levels. It also recognized and supported the SDMX as the preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata, requested the sponsors to continue their work on the initiative, and encouraged its further implementation by national and international statistical organizations.

II. Recent developments

4. Over the past months, the SDMX initiative has taken steps to strengthen its framework of standards and guidelines by:

(a) Working within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) towards approval of version 2 of SDMX Technical Standards (a revision of ISO Technical Specification 17369). These efforts are based on input received from national and international organizations during an extensive public comment period that led to the approval of version 2 by the SDMX Sponsors Committee in November 2005. Since that time version 2 has been supported by a growing number of freely available tools and additional input has been provided by a range of implementations and analyses to strengthen the SDMX framework;

* The report has been jointly prepared by the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank.

(b) Following an extensive public comment period, involving worldwide input from national and international organizations, the SDMX Sponsors Committee approved the first set of SDMX Content-Oriented Guidelines to be released on the SDMX website for freely available use in the exchange and sharing of statistical information. Subsequent outreach efforts were also made with national and international institutions in order to prepare for further developments involving the guidelines, particularly to focus on critical priorities in going forward.

5. These steps are also part of a broader approach being fostered to address various points raised during the thirty-ninth session of the Commission, including:

(a) The need to further involve national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative by enabling opportunities for collaboration with the sponsoring organizations in order to influence decision-making and its governance to address their needs, especially in the area of developing cross-domain concepts;

(b) The importance of capacity-building and outreach by organizing seminars, workshops, preparing handbooks, manuals and implementation guidance through training and technical assistance.

6. Within the context of ongoing reflections by the SDMX sponsors, particularly regarding ways to facilitate further involvement of national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative, the following ideas are taking shape:

(a) Create an advisory group of selected national and international organizations that will provide feedback to the sponsors on strategic issues;

(b) Foster collaboration through various meetings with sponsoring organizations, especially focusing on cross-domain concepts and facilitating the building of data/metadata structure definitions (i.e., involving subject-matter domain experts). The annex to the present note presents a detailed description of all the actions envisaged.

7. Furthermore, an action plan involving capacity-building and outreach to encourage awareness-building and implementations is taking shape and going forward with the support of all sponsoring organizations, with steps that include:

(a) Updating the SDMX user guide;

(b) Motivating involvement of regional organizations in capacity-building;

(c) Exploring opportunities for possibly developing self-learning training tools.

8. A Global SDMX Conference, scheduled for January 2009 (hosted by the OECD in Paris), seeks to facilitate the community of SDMX users to share information about their implementations and plans as well as to participate in capacity-building sessions.

9. Upgrades of the SDMX website are aimed at making it the centrepoint of SDMX information and collaboration, including:

(a) Features to foster developments in the area of statistical subject-matter domains (to host links to websites involving these activities and to facilitate access to specific data and metadata structure definitions);

(b) Features to facilitate the collaboration of the growing diversity of organizations involved in implementations or developments;

(c) Features to support links to freely available tools as well as capabilities to compare different functionalities, providing opportunities to identify gaps and foster development of additional tools to benefit statistical systems in interchanges of data and metadata;

(d) Features to show action plans concerning the development of tools and data and metadata structure definitions.

III. Conclusions and the way forward

10. **SDMX technical standards and content-oriented guidelines are facilitating improvements in the exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata through a widening range of implementations in subject-matter domains.**

11. **Outreach efforts are engaging, through a number of channels, national and international experts interested in contributing to the improvement of SDMX technical standards and guidelines.**

12. **Capacity-building opportunities are a high priority among the SDMX sponsoring organizations, with the goal of ensuring that the benefits of the SDMX framework are brought to the attention of the global community of statisticians and those support their efforts through the use of mainstream technology and communication.**

13. **Subject-matter domain activities involving SDMX are taking shape and can be monitored via the SDMX website. Currently, this involves developments in: national accounts, balance of payments, commodity trade, external debt, education, food and agriculture, health, labour and Millennium Development Goals indicators.**

14. **Involvement of national and international organizations in order to strengthen SDMX developments is considered critically important by the sponsors. More information about a framework for going forward is outlined in the annex to the present note.**

15. **A report for discussion by the Commission is envisaged for its session in 2010.**

Annex

Strengthening involvement of national and international statistical organizations in SDMX developments

Introduction

1. The development of the SDMX initiative has resulted in the availability of version 2.0 of the technical standards, content-oriented guidelines, and the gradual availability of a diversity of tools. In addition, several specific implementations carried out by sponsors and other institutions have been made operational. All this has created a solid basis for the deployment of SDMX in statistical organizations worldwide.

2. As a consequence, a new phase is now emerging which will be characterized by a generalized implementation of the different SDMX elements. This new phase will lead to a spread of SDMX-related developments (e.g., data structure definitions and tools), in many cases with limited or even no participation of the sponsors. It will also trigger specific needs of components or merely support coming from various implementing organizations.

3. SDMX should face several challenges in order to profit from these distributed forces:

(a) How to foster collaborative structures which will actively contribute to the progress of SDMX;

(b) How to follow up and how to communicate a growing number of initiatives;

(c) How to maintain a capacity to orient all these activities in a positive direction.

4. This document develops a way forward to enter successfully into this new phase. It spells out how the sponsors can interact with all these distributed initiatives in a way that strengthens the relevance and usefulness of SDMX to all its constituencies; and it suggests processes that can ensure that the views and needs of statistical organizations influence the future strategic evolution of SDMX.

Background

5. SDMX provides a set of building blocks for the exchange of statistical information involving technical standards (an information model, exchange formats and an architecture) and content-oriented guidelines (cross-domain concepts, a list of subject-matter domains and a metadata common vocabulary).

6. These standards and guidelines provide the basis to create structures identifying and describing statistical information. These are called in SDMX terminology data and metadata structure definitions (DSDs and MSDs). They rely on statistical concepts that are cross-domain (a focal point for SDMX activities) as well as others that are specific to a domain.

7. When built to conform with SDMX specifications, these DSDs and MSDs can be used to support a broad range of statistical services, e.g., batch exchange, joint hubs, data sharing, web dissemination and existing data collection for one or more

subject-matter domains. The more common the contents of these DSDs and MSDs are, the greater the opportunities for more efficiently supporting a wide set of supplier and user content-oriented requirements.

8. The way in which SDMX standards and guidelines are developed and officially endorsed entails the following steps:

(a) The SDMX Secretariat, in consultation with experts working in sponsor organizations and other experts in the field (including those working in other international organizations, national statistical offices and national central banks), develops draft standards and guidelines;

(b) The SDMX Sponsors Committee authorizes the publication of draft technical standards and guidelines that appear on its website (www.sdmx.org) for public comment periods and undergo reviews in meetings with their constituencies (especially national statistical agencies and central banks);

(c) Following this public consultation, the sponsoring institutions then prepare for the release of the technical standards and those content-oriented guidelines that are across domains (i.e., cross-domain concepts and vocabularies). In addition, the technical standards go through an approval process of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for Technical Specification 17369 (SDMX).

9. The above-mentioned process follows from the memorandum of understanding among SDMX sponsoring institutions (Bank for International Settlements, European Central Bank, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, United Nations and World Bank).[1] It has proved to be efficient and transparent, also considering that each organization, according to its own rules, has regularly informed its constituency about SDMX developments. SDMX sponsors as a whole also provide reports to the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities which involves about 25 international organizations.

Measures towards greater involvement of national and international statistical organizations

10. Some specific practical steps are currently being taken or are under consideration by the SDMX Sponsors Committee to foster greater involvement in SDMX developments by national and international statistical organizations. In particular, the objective is to ensure wide global participation in the evolving framework and use of SDMX. Some key measures are outlined in the paragraphs below.

I. Organizational measures

Identify roles of different actors

11. Identify which SDMX and CCSA international organizations are actively involved in particular subject-matter domain activities and are prepared to lead DSD/MSD developments, making this information available on the SDMX website

[1] Proposals for adjusted versions of SDMX standards and guidelines follow the same open process, based on input concerning suggested changes from within and outside the SDMX sponsoring institutions.

(including links to websites where such activities are ongoing), and encouraging input from national and other international organizations by providing a template on the SDMX website to enable listing institutions that have expressed an interest in contributing to these developments.

Foster the setup of cross-organizational working groups

12. Identify opportunities for one or more SDMX and CCSA international organizations to work together with preferably already existing groups of national statistical organizations to advance the implementation of SDMX data hubs and data sharing in particular subject-matter domains, moving beyond spreadsheets and other non-standardized exchange forms to SDMX specifications and DSDs/MSDs.

Develop networks through meetings and conferences

13. Take steps to:

(a) Foster the involvement of interested national and international experts through the organization of special working sessions with the SDMX Secretariat on specific topics (e.g., latest draft guidelines) to which they are invited;

(b) Encourage SDMX agenda items at expert and high-level meetings and at meetings of the constituencies of each of the SDMX sponsoring organizations (e.g., sharing experiences and identifying opportunities for improvement) and publish these events on the SDMX website;

(c) Organize biannual global SDMX conferences at which national and international experts can present their developments and exchange views, including providing capacity-building sessions to interested participants.

Create adequate infrastructure for communication between all actors involved

14. Enhance the role of the SDMX website by:

(a) Publishing comprehensive information, including work in progress, on:

(i) SDMX standards, guidelines, domain activities, implementations, meetings and capacity-building;

(ii) Available DSDs and MSDs, including work-in-progress, with navigation by domain, maintenance agency, country, international organization and links to implementations;

(iii) References (and links) to freely available tools and encourage input about areas for improvement;

(iv) Reference guides to building DSDs and MSDs;

(b) Providing a facility on the website to inform subscribers about new developments involving subject-matter developments;

(c) Providing help desk services to support capacity-building and information-sharing, including a section on FAQ;

(d) Providing contact list information on SDMX experts at international and national statistical organizations, fostering a community of information-sharing

concerning SDMX and eventually creating an interactive map showing correspondents in organizations involved in SDMX;

(e) creating a section for collaborative input, where organizations working with SDMX may communicate their activities and share solutions and where web 2.0 collaborative tools could be used in this section.

Launch specific capacity-building actions to foster deployment of SDMX in all regions

15. Foster activities to:

(a) Organize regional capacity-building on SDMX topics around the world, for example, in coordination with PARIS21, with high-level and in-depth sessions;

(b) Encourage training sessions and seminars for staff at national statistical organizations, with input from the SDMX Secretariat and develop for this purpose easy-to-transfer models such as self-learning packages.

Create a special advisory group

16. This will consist of national and international statistical organizations which are using or plan to use the SDMX framework and which are interested in suggesting important and/or strategic issues concerning SDMX developments to the SDMX Sponsors Committee. Members selected for this advisory group would be named on the SDMX website.

II. Measures to foster the participation in SDMX developments

Open development of DSD/MSD and tools to all organizations

17. SDMX envisages three essential elements in fostering the development of DSDs and MSDs in a transparent and coordinated way, building, wherever possible, on existing work, available cross-domain concepts and the metadata common vocabulary:

(a) A list of domains for which DSDs and MSDs have been and/or should be developed;

(b) Organizations (or groups of organizations) developing DSDs and MSDs for statistical domains (or groups of domains);

(c) A mechanism to foster coherence in DSDs and MSDs developed by different organizations/working groups in order to facilitate their more generalized use.

18. The SDMX content-oriented guidelines[2] contain a preliminary list of statistical subject-matter domains based on the latest version of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Classification of International Statistical Activities.[3] As a starting point, the appendix offers an initial high-level list of these domains. It can also be used as a framework for identifying which domain groups and institutions have

[2] Can be downloaded from the SDMX website (www.sdmx.org).

[3] See the current version at unece.unog.ch/disa/disa.explorer.asp?Search=PAPE&Year=2008.

developed or are developing DSDs and MSDs, providing available details as well as links to websites where more information can be found.

19. While there is long-standing cooperation worldwide to develop statistical concepts and methodologies in a coordinated way (through various international/inter-secretariat working groups and task forces), experience to develop DSDs and MSDs is currently centred within the SDMX sponsoring institutions and a number of central banks and national statistical agencies. The Sponsors Committee sees the incremental development of domain-specific DSDs and MSDs as building on the work of both the domain specialists and SDMX-experienced experts.

20. Three main ways are envisaged to develop DSDs and MSDs through open collaboration:

(a) Working groups of subject-matter domain experts develop DSDs and MSDs, providing an invaluable resource for institutions to use in implementing their exchanges;

(b) Institutions bilaterally or multilaterally develop DSDs and MSDs for their exchanges, relying on domain group efforts or making use of their own institutional competences; in the latter case, this is particularly likely to go forward if domain group experts have not yet specified DSDs and MSDs in subject-matter areas where they are needed;

(c) Single institutions specify DSDs and MSDs unilaterally, especially to disseminate their data and metadata through websites, and rely on domain group efforts if available.

21. No matter which collaboration process is employed, the most important challenge is to encourage reuse of common parts of these structures in building DSDs and MSDs. It is also expected that if detailed information about DSDs and MSDs is accessible through a freely available website, this focal point will foster the development of good practices for specifying DSDs and MSDs across all subject-matter domains.

Develop a process for facilitation of DSD/MSD developments by domains and institutions and to ensure the communication on these development initiatives

22. In fostering coherence of DSD/MSD developments, as well as their free availability, the SDMX website is seen as providing a central information resource and collaborative functionality in order to foster advancing global developments and implementations of SDMX.

23. In particular, the following steps are envisaged:

(a) When a group of domain experts or a national or international institution, or a group of institutions wants to announce development of DSDs/MSDs, it should communicate this intention to the SDMX Secretariat. This will enable information about these efforts to be published on the SDMX website, through classifications such as subject-matter domain and institution. Links will also be provided to the website of the institution taking responsibility as the maintenance agency and where additional details will be available. An alert system to inform of the launching of new developments, or of important milestones achieved will be put in place;

(b) The domain group, institution or group of institutions will develop DSDs/MSDs for their specific subject-matter domain ensuring an open consultation period for public comments; the SDMX Secretariat can make suggestions that the developers cooperate with other institutions or groups that may be working on similar activities concerning the same or related statistical domains. Subject to availability of resources, the SDMX Secretariat may also assist in reviewing notes (or completed templates) provided by the developers to indicate whether their work is conformant with the SDMX framework, to foster coherence of their work within the broader scope of SDMX developments;

(c) When the final DSDs/MSDs are ready, they can be made freely available through the SDMX website. Proposals for adjustments and new versions are envisaged to follow the same open processes. In this way, the SDMX website can serve as an evolving resource that fosters access to more and more of the DSDs and MSDs in subject-matter domains needed by the international statistical community.

III. Measures to encourage continuing involvement of United Nations Statistical Commission and Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in SDMX activities

24. The United Nations Statistical Commission and CCSA, and other bodies as appropriate, will receive updates in order to be informed of progress in these developments. This will be done through reports submitted in the regular meetings of these two bodies.

25. The discussions in the Commission and CCSA will provide valuable input for the sponsors' future plans.

Appendix

Preliminary SDMX list of statistical subject-matter domains

Domain 1. Demographic and social statistics		*Domain 2. Economic statistics*		*Domain 3. Environment and multi-domain statistics*	
1.1	Population and migration	2.1	Macroeconomic statistics	3.1	Environment
1.2	Labour	2.2	Economic accounts	3.2	Regional and small area statistics
1.3	Education	2.3	Business statistics	3.3	Multi-domain statistics and indicators
1.4	Health	2.4	Sectoral statistics	3.3.1	Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues
1.5	Income and consumption	2.4.1	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	3.3.2	Gender and special population groups
1.6	Social protection	2.4.2	Energy	3.3.3	Information society
1.7	Human settlements and housing	2.4.3	Mining, manufacturing, construction	3.3.4	Globalization
1.8	Justice and crime	2.4.4	Transport	3.3.5	Indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals
1.9	Culture	2.4.5	Tourism	3.3.6	Sustainable development
1.10	Political and other community activities	2.4.6	Banking, insurance, financial statistics	3.4	Yearbooks and similar compendia
1.11	Time-use	2.5	Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics		
		2.6	International trade and balance of payments		
		2.7	Prices		
		2.8	Labour cost		
		2.9	Science and technology		

United Nations E/CN.3/2009/25

Economic and Social Council

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Statistical Commission
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Item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information

Human settlements statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit, for information, the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Peer Review Meeting on Slum Estimation, held in New York from 3 to 6 April 2008.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24), chap. I.B.

08-63540 (E) 311208

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in response to the request of the Statistical Commission for information on the status of human settlements statistics. The report summarizes the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat pursuant to that request as related to monitoring the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11. As noted on the UN-Habitat website: "The United Nations Millennium Declaration recognizes the dire circumstances of the world's urban poor. It articulates the commitment of Member States to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020".[1]

II. Background and objectives of the Peer Review Meeting

2. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) convened and conducted a Peer Review Meeting on Slum Estimation in New York from 3 to 6 April 2006. The Meeting was attended by participants from Brazil, the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children Fund, the World Bank, the Population Council and the following academic institutions: Harvard University, New York University and Purdue University.

3. The major purpose of the meeting was to provide input into the process initiated by UN-Habitat regarding the definition of a slum-dweller and the conditions/indicators used in the measurement of slum dwelling.

III. Peer Review findings and recommendations

A. Definition of slum-dweller

4. To improve the lives of slum-dwellers it is crucial to know *how many there are, what their basic needs are*, in terms of shelter, water, sanitation, health, education and employment, and *where they are located*. The first question had been addressed in 2003 as an immediate response to the need for monitoring target 11 on slum-dwellers through the undertaking of slum estimations based on microdata from household surveys and censuses. Responses to the other two questions entail a needs assessment for slum-dwellers and a methodology measurement issue.

5. The Peer Review Group noted the concerns regarding the indicator for slum-dwellers expressed in their reports by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators[2] and the Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair.[3] The Peer Review Group agrees that the work of UN-Habitat on

[1] See http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=312.

[2] See http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=IAEG.htm.

[3] See the report of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goal indicators (E/CN.3/2006/15), submitted to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session in March 2006.

preparing an operational definition of slum-dwellers for statistical and policy analysis purposes has been conscientious and impressive in its scope and attention to monitoring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal target on slum-dwellers. The Peer Review Group understands that UN-Habitat should continue to publish monitoring estimates of numbers of slum-dwellers but recommends that these be issued along with estimates of the proportion of the urban population affected by shelter deprivation (lack of improved water, lack of improved sanitation, lack of sufficient living area, lack of durable housing or lack of secure tenure). The Group agrees that further research on the integration of national census data and data from geographical information systems should be supported.

6. The Peer Review Group recognized that not all slums were homogeneous and that not all slum-dwellers suffered from the same degree of deprivation. The degree of deprivation depends on how many of the four conditions used to measure slums (poor access to improved water, poor access to sanitation, non-durable housing and insufficient living area) are prevalent within a slum household. As slum measurement now stands, it will not be possible to appreciate the degree of deprivation of a slum household, a dimension which may be important for policymakers. Programmes and policies required for water are not the same as those required for sanitation or housing. Also, in terms of monitoring for a given country within a given period, the proportion of slum-dwellers may remain the same even as the type of deprivation has changed. As the measurement now stands, only the elimination of all deficiencies in a given household would be registered as signifying an improvement. The Peer Review Group recommends the classification of slum-dwellers by type of deprivation which can later be aggregated into "moderately deprived" and "severely deprived" (two or more deficiencies). While reduction in a deficiency for a severely deprived household could still leave its members with a deficiency, it might nonetheless move them out of the ranks of the severely deprived.

7. The Peer Review Group noted the apparent "disconnect" that has been observed by many housing statistics specialists between the concept of slum focused on the population living in substandard living quarters, and that focused on geographical localities where there is a high concentration of substandard housing. The latter concept is often cited as more appropriate intuitively and best suited to user needs. However, the Peer Review Group also appreciates the technical problems of sampling and compilation that the geographical concept entails, as well as the wide range of circumstances found in some countries where there are significant proportions of higher-quality housing in "slum" districts and substandard living quarters in richer districts. It recommends further research and analysis of country experiences and alternative definitions along the lines already undertaken by UN-Habitat, with a view to revisiting the recommended methodologies in time for the 2010 data reporting period. The Peer Review Group agrees that further research on the integration of national census data and data from geographical information systems with traditional data compilation and analysis programmes in this field is a particularly promising area of further work, one that should be strongly supported. Small-area poverty mapping is a good example of valuable work along these lines that should be pursued.

B. Data gaps

8. The Peer Review Group agrees with the Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals indicators that imputed country data should not be published at the country level and should be used with caution in the compilation of regional estimates (see E/CN.3/2006/15, paras. 27 and 60). It recommends close collaboration with countries to make the best use of country data sources and to ensure understanding of the UN-Habitat methodology used to achieve international comparability. Where the national methodology gives very different results from the UN-Habitat results and it is not possible to reconcile the differences through consultation, the national results and the reasons for the differences should also be noted in UN-Habitat data dissemination, as has been done, for example, with World Bank estimates of extreme poverty. Because of their size in their respective regions, it is particularly important to ensure appropriate consultation with Brazil, China and India on estimates for those countries. The Peer Review Group agrees that there is minimal benefit to be derived from expending scarce resources on data compilation and slum estimates for the developed regions, as it is the conditions in the developing regions that are the main focus of the Habitat Agenda[4] and Millennium Summit development goals.

C. Projections

9. The Peer Review Group agrees with the Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals indicators that projection methodologies for urban population and slums are of limited usefulness and should be thoroughly reviewed. It recognizes there can be some benefit in running simple extrapolation exercises to test "what-if?" scenarios, but recommends that the results be carefully presented and documented so as to ensure that they are not seriously misleading or misinterpreted as "forecasts".

D. International comparability

10. The Peer Review Group commends the work of UN-Habitat on developing international comparability in its statistics and notes that such comparability is one means of promoting high standards of quality in data collection and compilation in countries. It also commends the considerable efforts of UN-Habitat to work with countries directly and bilaterally in two extensive rounds of regional workshops designed to promote improved housing statistics and to assist countries in compiling and analysing those statistics from their census programmes on a small-area basis. UN-Habitat was also an active member of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses preparatory group, in 2005 and 2006. It recommends that UN-Habitat continue to pursue both objectives, in close cooperation with its national and international partners in statistics, with the long-term objective of achieving an internationally agreed set of standards and guidelines that can readily be adapted to countries' diverse needs and data-collection programmes.

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

IV. Conclusion

11. **The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the continued commitment and efforts of UN-Habitat to improve human settlement statistics.**

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Item 4 (i) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information: follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session (see E/2008/24), the present note is submitted to brief the Commission on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council adopted in 2008 that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The note, furthermore, indicates the actions taken and proposed to be taken by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division, in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

I. Follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

1. In its resolution 2008/29 on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 (E/2008/L.29 and E/2008/SR.43), the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the need to continue to strengthen the Council as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 50/227, 57/270B and 61/16.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

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2. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council also recognized the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies so as to allow the Council to carry out more effectively its crucial role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and encouraged the functional commissions to continue to explore ways to engage agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system more systematically in their work within their respective mandates, and requested that the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council, in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, contribute to the annual ministerial review and to the Development Cooperation Forum, in the context of their respective annual workplans, taking into account their specificities.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division

Meeting of the chairpersons of the functional commissions with the Economic and Social Council

3. As mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/44, a meeting of the Bureau of the Council with the chairpersons of the functional commissions is to be held annually in the early part of the year. The meetings of the chairpersons of the functional commissions with the Council and its Bureau serve to exchange relevant information among the subsidiary bodies and to intensify cooperation with the Council.

4. At the next annual meeting, which will take place in New York on Tuesday, 27 January 2009, the functional commissions are expected to provide input to the Council's 2009 annual ministerial review on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". Those contributions, including that of the Statistical Commission, will be consolidated and circulated for discussion at the meeting. The contribution of the Statistical Commission will include its ongoing work in the field of health statistics, including the report on health statistics (E/CN.3/2009/10) which is before the fortieth session of the Commission. It will also comment on the challenges faced in the compilation of and reporting accurate and meaningful indicators in the context of measuring health policy goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Moreover, the Chairman of the Statistical Commission participated in a special Economic and Social Council round table event on the theme "The role of the Economic and Social Council in addressing violence against women in all its forms and manifestations: a dialogue with the chairpersons of the functional commissions" (8 July 2008). The Chairman briefed the round table that the Commission had formed a Friends of the Chair group in 2008 to conduct an in-depth technical review of indicators to measure violence against women in response to the proposal made during the meeting of the Expert Group on Indicators to Measure Violence against Women, held in Geneva, from 8 to 10 October 2007. On the basis of the primary technical role of the Commission to develop and improve standards and methods of official statistics, this Friends of the Chair group would also suggest ways in which the compilation of various indicators could be improved, for instance by proposing

more rigorous concepts and definitions or by developing appropriate sources, either administrative records or surveys. The Chairman further briefed the round table on technical problems related to the collection of reliable data on violence against women through surveys. Statistical challenges include the exact definition of concepts, the elaboration of the methodology to be used, the level of disaggregation by age, occupation, education, ethnicity and other social characteristics, and the classification of violence and its perpetrators.

Development indicators

6. Ever since the Economic and Social Council invited the Statistical Commission to serve as the intergovernmental focal point for the review of indicators used by the United Nations system for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (see Council resolutions 1999/55 and 2000/27), the Commission has been discussing the technical aspects of development indicators on a continuous basis.

7. At its fortieth session, the Commission is considering a report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2009/16).

Methods of work

8. The Statistical Commission, like the rest of the functional commissions, had reported to the Council the completion of the review of its methods of work in 2005 (see E/2005/24). In particular, the Commission had addressed the issue of more efficient time management. It had also put in place a mechanism to ensure the continuity of its Bureau and cooperation with the Council, including through a standing agenda item on Council decisions. The Commission also enhanced its official programme through panel discussions and other side events during its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions with multi-stakeholder participation. The Commission has found the procedures satisfactory and it intends to continue to implement and refine them in its fortieth session. In particular, the Bureau has a continued mandate to streamline the agenda (see E/2007/24).

II. Multi-year programme of work for annual ministerial reviews of the Economic and Social Council

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

9. The Council adopted its first multi-year work programme for the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews in October 2007. The 2008 review focused on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development"; and the 2009 review will focus on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". In its decision 2008/258, the Council also decided to adopt the following themes for its annual ministerial-level substantive reviews for 2010 and 2011: (a) 2010: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women"; and (b) 2011: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The substantive contributions of the Council's functional

commissions and expert bodies are considered essential for the success of the reviews.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division

10. The Commission continuously works on all statistical subject-matter areas to improve the availability and quality of baseline statistics. For instance, the items of the provisional agenda of its fortieth session, on climate change and official statistics, environmental-economic accounting, health statistics and education statistics (items 3 (a), (d), (g) and (h)), are related to the themes of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, as mentioned above (paras. 4 and 5), the Commission is the intergovernmental focal point for the review of indicators used by the United Nations system and accordingly guides the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, which could feed into the preparation of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews.

III. Mainstreaming gender perspectives

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

11. In its resolution 2008/34 the Council reaffirmed its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] recalled its resolutions 2001/41, 2002/23, 2003/49, 2004/4, 2005/31, 2006/36 and 2007/33; and also reaffirmed the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender.

12. In 2007, the General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (resolution 62/133). In the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to develop and propose a set of possible indicators on violence against women, building on the work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women, with a view to allowing its consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session and by the Statistical Commission at the earliest.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division

13. In March 2007, the Statistical Commission held a joint panel discussion with the Commission on the Status of Women on the latter's priority theme for 2007

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

entitled "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". The panel discussion, which was part of the interactions between individual functional commissions, was very well received (see A/62/89-E/2007/76).

14. The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its thirty-ninth session held in February 2008 in New York, approved the formation of the Friends of the Chair group to conduct an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women, and requested the group to report back to the Commission at its fortieth session.

15. The Friends of the Chair, comprising experts from seven countries with observers from several United Nations organizations, was formed. In consultation with the Chair, explicit terms of reference were elaborated. At its fortieth session, the Commission is considering a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Friends of the Chair on the indicators on violence against women (E/CN.3/2009/13).

IV. Follow-up to Council resolutions on strengthening national capacity in statistics and on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

16. Upon the initiative of the Statistical Commission, the Council adopted two resolutions in 2005 and 2006, one on strengthening national capacity in statistics (2006/6) and the other on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme (2005/13), in which it requested an intensification of efforts to support national statistical programmes in strengthening their capacity, in the context of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census round and beyond.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division

17. At its fortieth session, the Commission is considering specific follow-up actions to those two resolutions under its agenda items 3 (m) on "Development indicators", 4 (a) on "Population and housing censuses", and 4 (f) on "Statistical capacity-building". The documentation presented under those items describes in detail activities undertaken by the Statistics Division and by its partner agencies to improve the availability and quality of development indicators in supporting the 2010 World Population and Housing Census round and activities undertaken to improve the coordination of technical cooperation activities.

V. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

18. In its resolution 2008/3, the Council recalled the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[2] and recalled also that access to information and the sharing and creation of knowledge contributes significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping all countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, considering that this process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information, and underlining the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, in particular in developing countries. The Council, having assessed the successes and shortcomings to date in respect of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, recommended, inter alia, that the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technologies for Development consider the creation of benchmarks and indicators, including impact indicators, for further consideration and decision by the Statistical Commission, in order to track progress towards the attainment of the specific goals and targets set out in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, particularly section B of the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva.[3]

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division

19. At its thirty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission, in its decision 38/104, endorsed the core list of information and communication technology indicators (see E/CN.3/2007/5); encouraged countries to use the core list of indicators in their data collection programmes; encouraged the Partnership to continue working to improve and update the list of indicators, especially with regard to measuring the use of information and communication technology in education and in government, the contribution of such technology to economic growth and social development, and the barriers to the use of the technology; and encouraged the Partnership to assist countries in their capacity-building efforts for the collection of data for the information and communication technology indicators.

20. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its first Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy[4] to serve as a reference for national statistical offices and other producers of official statistics on business use of information and communications technology (ICT). The Manual provides a guide to data collection and analysis, international

[2] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687; the outcome documents are also available at http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html.

[3] Available at http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html.

[4] Available at http://stat.un.org/unsd/statcom_archive/ict_manual.pdf.

standards and definitions. It also offers model questions for surveys on ICT use and it reviews important institutional issues related to compiling ICT statistics. At its fortieth session, the Commission is considering a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development which summarizes the progress made to date (E/CN.3/2009/19).

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Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2010-2011

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2010-2011, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. The General Assembly has approved, in its resolution 63/247 of 24 December 2008, the biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011, which includes the elements of the "programme narrative", namely, the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the statistics subprogramme.

3. The draft programme of work presented below includes, in addition to the programme narrative, a list of outputs formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5, Statistics, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, for the period 2010-2011.

4. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and to review the proposed outputs to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly at the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objective of the Organization: To advance the global statistical system in order to produce high-quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened global statistical system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(a) (i) Increased number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) Increased number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators
(b) Better and broader use by Governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical guidelines produced by the subprogramme	(b) (i) Increased number of requests satisfied for statistical data (ii) Increased percentage of visits to the Statistics Division website
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields to produce quality data for policymakers and the public in general	(c) Increased percentage of participants that utilized knowledge obtained at training workshops

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity.

Outputs

During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: Fifth Committee, scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports, background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (1);

(ii) Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Statistical Commission (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports to the Statistical Commission (on the themes decided by the Commission in 2009) (23);

(iii) Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Committee on Contributions (70);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports, background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contributions (4);

(iv) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (12);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report on the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (1);

(v) Ad hoc expert groups: 20 expert group meetings on: international migration; population and housing censuses; gender statistics; social statistics; climate change; environment statistics; international economic and social classifications; national accounts; environmental-economic accounting (2); system of environmental-economic accounting for energy (1); system of environmental-economic accounting for material flow accounts (1); Millennium Development Goals indicators (2 meetings per year) (4); international merchandise trade statistics (1); compilation of external trade indices (1); statistics of international trade in services (1); infrastructure and basic data sources for compilation of economic statistics (1);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications (237): demographic and social statistics website (8); 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses website (8); *Demographic Yearbook* (2); *Population and Vital Statistics Report* series A, biweekly electronic version (24); social indicators website (twice-yearly update) (4); *Population and Vital Statistics Report*, series A (print) (4); website on environment statistics (2); environmental indicators (web) (1); environmental country profiles (2); *ENVSTATS* newsletter (4); website on classifications (2); newsletter on classifications (4); *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook* (print and CD-ROM) (2); website on industry statistics (2); *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2008 and 2009* (2);

National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2008 and 2009 (2); website on national accounts (2); newsletter on national accounts (4); website on environmental accounting (2); environment-economic accounting newsletter (4); Millennium Development Goals report and statistical annex for the Secretary-General's office (2); millennium indicators database update (2); website on Millennium Development Goals (2); glossy report on the Millennium Development Goals (2); progress chart on the Millennium Development Goals (2); progress chart on the Millennium Development Goals based on country progress within regions (2); Millennium Development Goals Info (2); Millennium Development Goals — aid information (2); website of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (4); website on technical cooperation (8); website of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (2); website on national statistical systems (2); *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* (print and Internet) (48); *Statistical Yearbook* (2); UNdata website (12); *World Statistics Pocketbook* (2); United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names information bulletin (3); website on geographical information (4); website on city groups (2); website of the Statistical Commission (2); website on standards and methods (2); website of the Statistics Division (8); website of the Statistics Division, publication archive (2); *Energy Statistics Yearbook* 2008 and 2009 (2); *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles* 2008 and 2009 (2); energy statistics online database (1); *Energy Statistics Newsletter* (4); website on energy statistics (2); Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, vols. I and II (2); UN Comtrade database on international merchandise trade statistics on the Internet (2); UN Services Trade database on statistics of international trade in services on the Internet (2); newsletter of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (4); website of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (2); online annex to the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, vols. I and II (2); newsletter on international merchandise trade statistics (4); website on statistics of international trade in services (2); website on international merchandise trade statistics (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications (20): International Classification of Activities in Time-Use Surveys (Internet update) (1); Compendium of Housing Statistics (1); *The World's Women 2010* (1); *Data Compilation Manual for Water Statistics* (1); revised framework for the development of environment statistics (1); *Handbook on National Accounts* (1); *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy* (1); *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Material Flow Accounts* (1); Millennium Development Goals thematic brochure (2); GenderInfo (2); *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts, Definitions and Strategies, Revision 3* (1); *International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual, Revised* (1); handbook on good practices in compilation of external trade indices (merchandise trade) (1); national practices in the compilation and dissemination of statistics in international trade in services (online) (1); handbook on the compilation of statistics on international trade in services by national statistical offices (1); handbook on infrastructure and basic data sources for compilation of economic statistics (1); international recommendations for energy statistics (1); national practices in the compilation and dissemination of distributive trade statistics (online) (1);

(iii) Technical material: development and maintenance of statistical databases for the collection, processing, printing and dissemination of statistical data in the areas of environment statistics, energy statistics, commodity production statistics, index number of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2); technical development and maintenance of the Millennium Development Goals indicators database and documentation and training (yearly) (2); responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics (2); standardized statistical data metadata exchange, coordination with relevant agencies within the inter-agency and expert group on Millennium Development Goals indicators (2); standardized statistical data metadata exchange, collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlements and others in the inter-agency working group (2); updated documentation on database maintenance and revised training materials (2);

(iv) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: meetings of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (4); meetings of cluster 10, Statistics, Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (2); subgroups on Millennium Development Goals indicators (2 meetings per year) (4); advisory teams on gender statistics (4); Advisory Group on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Environment Statistics (3).

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Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission

Draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2009-2012

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51, a proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission is set out below. Reflecting comments from members and observers of the Commission and a review of its workplans by the United Nations Statistics Division, the programme of work constitutes a revision of the draft multi-year programme of work for 2008-2011 (E/CN.3/2008/32) considered by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

* E/CN.3/2009/1.

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Proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2009-2012

Agenda item	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
1. Demographic and social statistics				
(a) Population and housing censuses	X	X	X	X
(b) Human settlements statistics	X			
(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (city group)		X		X
(d) Health statistics	X		X	
(e) Social statistics	X	X		
(f) Poverty statistics			X	
(g) Education statistics	X		X	
(h) Statistics of drugs and drug use		X		
(i) Washington Group on Disability Measurement (city group)		X		X
(j) Migration statistics		X		
(k) Employment statistics	X			
(l) Gender statistics	X		X	
(m) Culture statistics		X		
2. Economic statistics				
(a) National accounts	X	X	X	X
(b) Agricultural statistics	X		X	
(c) Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income (city group)		X		
(d) Industrial statistics		X		
(e) Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers	X		X	
(f) Energy statistics	X		X	
(g) Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (city group)	X		X	
(h) Distributive trade statistics			X	
(i) International merchandise trade statistics		X		
(j) Statistics of international trade in services		X		
(k) Statistics of services		X		
(l) Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (city group)		X		X
(m) Information and communication technologies statistics	X			
(n) Tourism statistics		X		
(o) Finance statistics		X		
(p) International Comparison Programme	X	X	X	X
(q) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (city group)		X		
(r) Price statistics	X			
(s) Statistics of science and technology				X
(t) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (city group)		X		
(u) Integrated economic statistics		X		
(v) Short-term economic indicators			X	

Agenda item	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*
3. Natural resources and environment statistics				
(a) Environment statistics		X		
(b) Environmental accounting	X	X	X	X
(c) London Group on Environmental Accounting (city group)		X		
(d) Climate change statistics	X		X	
4. Activities not classified by field				
(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	X	X	X	X
(b) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)	X	X	X	X
(c) Management issues in national statistical offices			X	
(d) Statistics of human development				X
(e) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics			X	
(f) International economic and social classifications		X		X
(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	X		X	
(h) Presentation of statistical data and metadata				X
(i) Coordination of ongoing methodological work			X	
(j) Statistical capacity-building	X		X	
(k) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division				X
(l) Development indicators	X	X	X	X
(m) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions	X	X	X	X
(n) Working methods of the Statistical Commission			X	
(o) Principles governing international statistical activities			X	
(p) Regional statistical development	X	X	X	X
(q) Quality assurance frameworks		X		
Total number of items	**24**	**30**	**27**	**17**

Programme reviews

2003: Statistics of services

2004: Social statistics

2005: Energy statistics

2006: Industrial statistics

2007: Education statistics

2008: Employment statistics

2009: Climate change and official statistics

2010: Quality assurance frameworks (proposed)

2011: Research and development statistics (proposed)